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THE REVISION OF PRITZEL'S BOTANICAL DICTIONARY

PRITZEL in the middle of the last century compiled a dictionary of every important published picture or illustration of every known plant, of which he enumerates more than 100,000, giving a reference to the book and page where each illustration may be found; so that any one hearing of a plant he never happened to have seen could look out the name in "Pritzel," and on referring to the book and page given, find a representation of the plant—colored or otherwise.

Pritzel's book is long out of print, and as he finished his work in 1866 it is desirable to bring Pritzel's work up to date. Different scientific bodies (and private individuals) in England and in the United States have from time to time made suggestions for undertaking this work of revision, but as yet none of their suggestions have taken effect, chiefly on account of the very large expenditures and scientific work it involves.

The original Pritzel, which must of course be reprinted, contains about 100,000 entries, and it is estimated that at least 125,000 more entries will have to be incorporated with them. The Royal Horticultural Society has at last definitely undertaken to carry out the work with the assistance of botanists attached to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Natural History Museum and the Linnean Society, and in friendly cooperation with the United States government Bureau of Plant Industry.

In 1913 the society began to raise the required amount, the International Horticultural Exhibition held in 1912 starting the fund with a donation of £250 followed by £100 from the Veitch Memorial Trustees and the council of the Royal Horticultural Society voted £250 to which they have since added

another £250 to enable the work to be begun. The work has now been actually started, the typists having accommodation found for them at Kew through the assistance of the director, and the whole is under the immediate supervision of the following committee, viz.: Professor I. Bayley, Mr. E. A. Bowles, Mr. F. J. Hanbury, Captain Arthur W. Hill, Dr. B. Daydon Jackson, Mr. Gerald W. E. Loder, Sir Daniel Morris, Sir David Prain, Dr. A. B. Rendle, Dr. O. Stapf, Sir Harry J. Veitch, to which, as has been said, will be added direct assistance from Kew, the Natural History Museum, the Linnean Society and the Bureau of Plant Industry.

GERMAN SCIENCE AFTER THE WAR

Nature quotes from an editorial in *Die Umschau*, for November 30, 1918, by the editor, Professor J. H. Bechhold, in which he indicates the manner in which German science can aid the Fatherland in its hour of defeat and assist it to gain the supremacy in the economic sphere. After pointing out that reconstructed Germany must perforce be simple in order to conform to the new conditions of life imposed upon her by recent events, he asks the question: In what relation shall science, technics and art stand in the new state? Germany, it is explained, must in future seek to live upon her own resources; further, she will have only a small amount of raw material surplus to her own needs, and for this reason it will be incumbent upon her to export the output of her genius; to meet the situation as it should be met, Germany will have to build herself up on efficiency management. She is told that she must attempt to excel all other countries in the quality of her precision instruments and lenses, artificial silks and textiles, dyes and medicines, high-class furniture and works of art, in order to create a demand for these valuable products of her industry in foreign lands. For this reason, Germany will require, says Professor Bechhold, highly trained engineers, chemists, electricians, skilled mechanics and artificers, and, in order that her needs in these directions may be suitably met, she will further require first-class teachers,